15. Close monitoring on drivers 10 hrs. working rule is being done on various level by higher officers.

Outstanding dues of Railways

1224. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of Railways is outstanding for payment by State Electricity Boards and N.T.P.C for coal transportation;

(b) what is the experience of introducing the scheme for advance payment of coal transport charge;

(c) whether new dues are added to the old outstandings dues since this scheme;

(d) what steps are being taken to recover the outstanding amount; and

(e) whether any penalising action is proposed to be taken against the defaulting units?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prepayment of freight for coal consigned to thermal power stations/State Electricity Boards is working satisfactorily.

(c) There is an accretion in outstanding dues in some Power Houses.

(d) It has been decided that the movement of coal for all Power Houses/State Electricity Boards including Delhi Vidyut Board will be on pre-payment of freight basis w.e.f. 1.10.96 and for Badarpur Thermal Power Plant w.e.f. 1.1.97.

It has also been decided that the past outstanding dues should be adjusted by appropriation from Central Plan Assistance for the concerned States, subject to the maximum of 15% of the CPA which will be distributed on pro-rata basis.

As a result of this decision, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Expenditure, has sent a cheque of Rs. 3.85 crore which has been adjusted against various SEBs except BTPP of NTPC & DVB. For getting the outstanding dues cleared against BTPP & DVB, matter has been taken up.

The outstanding dues against DVB & BTPP of NTPC at the end of Dec.' 1996 were Rs. 62.81 crore and Rs. 743.43 crore respectively where as at the end of Sep.' 1997 this amount came down marginally to Rs. 44.77 cr and 742.98 cr respectively.

(e) The defaulting units are penalised by withdrawal of the facility of:

(i) Scheme of Advance Payment of Freight;

(ii) Credit Note cum Cheque;

(iii) 'Weight Only' system.

and they are requested to pay freight to regulate at the booking point through bank drafts.

In addition, action is taken to regulate the supply of wagons for coal traffic of such units to prevent accrual of freight outstanding.

The scheme for pre-payment of freight for coal consigned to Thermal Power Stations/State Electricity Boards was introduced from 1.10.1996 for all such units with the exception of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (now rechristened as Delhi Vidyut Board) and Badarpur Thermal Power Station of National Thermal Power Corporation, for whom this scheme was made operative from 1.1.97. With the implementation of Pre-payment Schemes, further accrual of outstanding has been contained to a great extent in respect of most of the power stations and State Electricity Boards with the exception of Delhi Vidyut Board and Badarpur Thermal Power Station, which still continue to accumulate freight outstandings. Action is taken against these units by regulating supply of coal wagons and advance deposit of funds is insisted upon from them so as to eliminate any outstanding on current account. A close monitoring is being done both at Zonal Railways and at the Board's level to ensure that freight outstandings do not

increase. Since Delhi Vidyut Board and Badarpur Thermal Power Station are supplying electricity to the Capital it has not been possible to take drastic action against them as this could have disrupted electricity generation and supply to the Capital.

Completion of Railway Line from Angul to Duburi in Orissa

1225. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target date has been fixed for the completion of the railway-line from Angul to Duburi in Orissa;

(b) whether the line is proposed to be further extended to Paradip via Haridaspur;

(c) if so, the details of plan of Government in that regard; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the allocation of fund?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, this new line is being provided from Angul (Budhapank) to Sukinda Road via Dubri. A new line is also being Provided from Haridaspur to Paradeep and once both these lines are completed, Dubri will have connection to Paradeep via Sukinda Road, Jakhapura, Haridaspur.

(d) Rs. 10 lakhs have been allocated for Angul - Sukinda Road new line project during supplementary Budget, 1997-98 and would be increased in the coming years as the work progresses and as per availability of resources.

शाहगंज-आजमगढ़-मऊ रेल लाइन से होकर नई रेलगाड़ियां शुरू किया जाना

1226. **श्री राम गोपाल यादव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने शाहगंज-आजमगढ़-मऊ रेल लाइन से होकर दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, मुम्बई तक रेलगाड़ियां चलाने का निर्णय लिया है; यदि हां, तो यह रेलगाड़ियां कब से चलेंगी और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने मऊ से लखनऊ तक प्रतिदिन वरुणा या इंटरसिटी जैसी रेलगाड़ियां चलाने का निर्णय लिया है जिससे यात्रियों को मऊ-लखनऊ तक शीघ्र यात्रा करने में सुविधा हो सके?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) 4649/4650 दिल्ली-दरभंगा सरयू यमुना एक्सप्रेस (सप्ताह में तीन बार) 1.8.97 से मऊ-आजमगढ़-शाहगंज खंड से दिल्ली तक सीधी सेवा उपलब्ध करा रही है। बहरहाल, इस खंड के रास्ते कलकत्ता और मुम्बई की ओर गाड़ियां चलाना संभव नहीं होगा, क्योंकि इससे यात्रा करने में अधिक समय और किराया लगेगा।

(ख) जी नहीं।

ऊना रेलवे स्टेशन का बन्द होना

1227. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मंत्रालय ने हिमाचल प्रदेश स्थित ऊना रेलवे स्टेशन को बन्द करने के निर्देश दिए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह निर्देश कब और किन कारणों से जारी किए गए थे; और

(ग) यह स्टेशन कब स्थापित किया गया था?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) ऊना रेलवे स्टेशन 11.01.91 से खोला गया था।

अप्रयुक्त रेलवे भूमि

1228. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेलवे की हजारों एकड़ फालतू पड़ी ऐसी भूमि जिस पर अनेक लोगों ने कब्जा कर रखा है और जिसका कुछ भाग अप्रयुक्त पड़ा है, के सदुपयोग के लिए रेल विभाग द्वारा कोई योजना बनाई गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और